



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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## ***CASTILLEJA EXILIS*** **ANNUAL INDIAN PAINTBRUSH**

Annual Indian Paintbrush is an annual with erect, usually unbranched stems that are 20-80 cm high. The alternate, narrowly lance-shaped leaves, 3-8 cm long, have entire margins. Foliage is glandular-hairy. The stalkless flowers arise from the axils of the bracts in a spike-like inflorescence at the top of the stem. The upper bracts have bright red tips. The yellowish, tubular corolla, 15-25 mm long, tapers to a galea above that surpasses the 3 small lobes below. The tubular calyx, 15-20 mm long, almost completely contains the corolla and is cleft into 4 pointed lobes. Flowering in July-August.

This is our only annual *CASTILLEJA*, also distinguished in the lack of lobes on the leaves and bracts.